

Appln. No. 10/817,044
Reply to Office Action of November 14, 2006
Response dated March 14, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0008] on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] L-threonine is synthesized from aspartate by a multi-step pathway, wherein the aspartate is formed from OAA converted by PPC from PEP. L-threonine biosynthesis is inhibited when glucose is present in relatively high levels in media in comparison with the bacterial growth rate and the overall rate of the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle. In this situation, ppc gene expression is suppressed, while expression of a gene encoding PEP carboxykinase (hereinafter, referred to simply as "pckA"), which catalyzes the conversion of OAA into PEP is increased. The elevated levels of pckA result in the formation of PEP from OAA as the precursor for amino acid biosynthesis, wherein other by-products are synthesized from the PEP (Goldie H. Medina V., Mol. Gen. Genet., 220(2):191-196, 1990; Dang et al., Dan G. Fraenkel, *E.coli and Salmonella*, 4:191-192, 12:142-150, 1996). Therefore, the pckA gene should be essentially inactivated in order to produce L-threonine in high levels by increasing the flux of metabolic pathways responsible for L-threonine synthesis.